Department from non-core functions so that it can concentrate on its core functions of assessments, investigation and tax collection.

More funds for Planning Commission

2718. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently directed the Finance Ministry to provide more money for the Planning Commission as gross budgetary support for plan schemes in 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the money has been released; and

(d) if so, whether the same has allocated to various plan schemes and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increase in central subsidies

2719. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recommended phasing out of non-merit subsidies worth over Rs. 1,30,000 crores which have increased from a negative 1.04 per cent during 1991-95 to 19.38 during 1995-2000;

(b) if so, why this alarming fiscal situation has arisen, which are the sectors where subsidies have been increased and why; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to adopt to tackle this situations?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Explicit Central Government subsidies increased from Rs. 9133 crore in 1990-91 to Rs. 44618 crore in 2002-03. These subsidies on an average accounted for 1.4% of the